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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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1. The German settled area of Odessa Oblast, immediately southwest of the city of Odessa, was inhabited by about 32 thousand people prior to World War II. Property was collectivized in the 1930's into 11 farms, covering a total area of about 33 thousand hectares. Crops included wheat, sunflower and corn.
2. Supervision of kolkhos activity was in the hands of Soviet officials. Germans were entrusted with a few petty jobs and the usual farm labor. Competence of Soviet officials was poor. Some were unable to identify field crops. Soviets looked upon the German element with distrust as being representatives of a natural enemy, the German nation. With the advent of Hitler, this attitude was intensified.
3. Relations with Ukrainian inhabitants were good, and a cooperative spirit prevailed as regarding the limited amount of free trade allowed by the Soviets. Sale of edibles to one another was an established custom. Inter-marriage was not common due mostly to the clannish nature of the Germans. Older generation Germans who had been Tsarist subjects were proud of having served in the Imperial Army, and of having contributed in many material ways to the Russian Nation. The Soviets alienated this spirit either deliberately or through ignorance.
4. The German farming area was a rich producer of wine grapes prior to collectivization. With the establishment of kolkhozes, this activity was prohibited in favor of grain crops particularly. Kolkhozes included the following:

Mariental	- 2,400 hectares
Spartakovka (Gros Liebental)	- 4,000 hectares
Aleksandrovskiy	- 2,000 hectares
Josafat	- 3,000 hectares
Peterstal	- 3,000 hectares
Houburg	- 2,000 hectares
Friedental	- 3,000 hectares
Klein Liebental	- 3,000 hectares
Marstal	- 2,400 hectares

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- 2 -

50X1-HUM

and two others of about three thousand hectares each. Mariental kolhoz was allotted three tractors. All machinery was turned into a nearby repair shop for overhaul in December of each year. Repair work was poor. Tractors were started by being cranked with horses.

5. Climate was very cold in winter months with varying amounts of snow. A heavy snowfall was not unusual. Rivers were frozen solid. In summer months rivers and streams in vicinity of kolhozes became dry.
6. German inhabitants of Odessa Oblast not evacuated by the Wehrmacht were dispatched to areas of Siberia near Tsumk and Gusk by the Soviets. Letters from Siberia received in Germany in 1939 indicated that conditions were hard but not unbearable. German colony collaboration with Soviets while resident in Odessa Oblast was at a minimum, and then only through coercion. Youths desiring to continue their education after completion of the eighth year of school had to join the Communist. Once enrolled, it was assumed by parents that obligations of an inferior nature became necessary for their children.
7. A stone quarry was located at Krivaya Balka, a suburb to the west of Odessa. Exploitation was by shaft mining. The main highway leading from Odessa to Tiraspol (46°51'N - 29°37'E) was paved with such stones on the eastern section.
8. An underground airbase was located at Bol'shoy Fontan, a southern suburb of Odessa. Construction took two years in late 1930's. It was a secret project and a closely guarded area prohibited to passersby.

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